

What is claimed is:

1 1 (Currently amended). A nozzle for injection molding, comprising:
2 a thermally conductive nozzle body defining an internal passage for
3 conveying a flow of heated melt through the nozzle body, wherein the
4 internal passage extends axially along the nozzle body to an axially
5 placed cylindrical hub of a diameter less than a diameter of the nozzle
6 body;
7 a tubular extension from the cylindrical hub, the tubular extension
8 having a wall thickness less than a wall thickness of the cylindrical hub;
9 a nozzle tip on an end of the nozzle body, communicating with the
10 internal passage, wherein the nozzle tip is structured for engagement with a
11 mold for coupling the passage to an injection inlet; and,
12 wherein a heat flow blocking configuration is disposed between an extreme
13 end of the nozzle tip and a point of the internal passage spaced back from the
14 nozzle tip.

1 2 (original). The nozzle of claim 1, wherein the heat flow blocking
2 configuration comprises a portion having reduced thermal conduction capacity
3 between the extreme end and the point spaced backed from the nozzle tip.

1 3 (original). The nozzle of claim 2, wherein the portion having reduced
2 thermal conduction comprises a reduction in wall thickness along the internal
3 passage.

1 4 (original). The nozzle of claim 3, wherein the reduction in wall
2 thickness occurs at an extension of the internal passage at the extreme end of
3 the nozzle tip.

1 5(original). The nozzle of claim 4, further comprising at least one fin
2 extending laterally from the extension of the internal passage to the nozzle
3 body, for supporting said extension.

1 6(original). The nozzle of claim 5, wherein the fin supporting the
2 extension has a material gap between the extension and the nozzle body.

Claims 7 and 8 are canceled.

1 9(currently amended). The nozzle of claim 1 ~~8~~, further comprising at
2 least one fin forming a buttress supporting the tubular extension relative to the
3 cylindrical hub.

1 10(original). The nozzle of claim 9, wherein the fin forms at least two
2 radially extending buttresses.

1 11(original). The nozzle of claim 10, wherein the buttresses are
2 diametrically opposite.

1 12(original). The nozzle of claim 9, wherein the fin has a gap between
2 the cylindrical hub and a buttress forming web.

1 13(original). The nozzle of claim 9, wherein the web extends along a
2 line of a spherical surface.

Claims 14-17 are canceled.

1 18(New). A nozzle for injection molding, comprising:
2 a thermally conductive nozzle body defining an internal passage for
3 conveying a flow of heated melt through the nozzle body;
4 a nozzle tip on an end of the nozzle body, communicating with the
5 internal passage, wherein the nozzle tip is structured for engagement with a
6 mold for coupling the passage to an injection inlet;
7 a heat flow blocking configuration disposed between an extreme end of
8 the nozzle tip and a point of the internal passage spaced back from the nozzle
9 tip, the heat flow blocking configuration comprising a portion having reduced
10 thermal conduction capacity between the extreme end and the point spaced
11 back from the nozzle tip, said portion including a reduced wall thickness along
12 the internal passage, and a material gap extending radially over an axial span
13 between the extreme end and the point of the internal passage spaced back
14 from the nozzle tip.

1 19(new). The nozzle of claim 18, wherein the material gap is
2 formed by an opening in a fin comprising radially extending buttresses.

1 20(new). The nozzle of claim 18, wherein the material gap
2 comprises a radial groove extending for said axial span.